

critical digest

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This Week in NYC

Two producing firms made plans to convert former Greenwich Village night clubs to "cabaret" theatres. St Marks Playhouse owners Lynn Michaels and Harry Baum and Philip Mesiter have acquired the defunct Moroccan Village club which they will remodel and open as the Harlequin Cafe Playhouse, 16 W 8 St. Theatre will seat 199 and will be adjoined to cafe where coffee and food will be served. H B Lutz, co-producer of Krapp's Last Tape, Thaddeus Trout and summer tent producer Lee Guber plan to bring a trio of avant garde short plays by Edward Albee, N. F. Simpson and Lonny Chapman to Village Gate, 185 Thompson St, which will be renamed "Theatre Main Line." Program to be tested in Oct in Paoli, Penn Tally- Ho Restaurant, and Philadelphia's Rathskeller Underground. Food and liquor will be available during intermissions, before and after the show. Chicago producers of Happy Medium cabaret theatre are also reported hunting for a Village site. One Sheridan Sq. theatre, where Greenwich Village, USA, opened, also operates as a theatre cabaret, serving coffee and cake between the acts. Midnight song festivals are also held nightly at theatre, and smoking is allowed during the performance.

Plays

Broadway business dropped 20% the night of the first Kennedy-Nixon TV debate. ... Farewell, Farewell Eugene closed after 7 performances. ... Taffy starring Kim Stanley moved NY debut forward a week to Nov 23. ... The 49th Cousin author credits will be shared by Leonard Spigelgass for script revision following death of co-author Caroline Francke. ... After 'Im Gone, new comedy by Norman Barash-Carroll Moore to be presented in Nov by Courtney Burr, starring David Wayne. ... Requiem for a Heavyweight, Rod Serling's adaptation of his own TV drama, to be presented in Feb by David Susskind-Ralph Nelson, latter to be director. ... Anyone We Know a new revue will be produced in May by John Fearnley, sketches by R. G. Brown and Jeff Harris, Patsy Kelly and Barbara Cook may star.

Players

Martha Scott replaced Betty Field, The 49th Cousin, during second week of rehearsals, latter left due to virus ... Nydia Westman to be featured in The Rape of the Belt ... Nancy Walker to co-star with Phil Silvers in Do Re Mi ... Sandra Church to make NY dramatic debut in Under the Yum Yum Tree ... Lillian Gish to portray comedy role in All the Way Home.

NYC Calendar

Deep Are the Roots- St Marks Playhouse 10/3. Lynn Michaels-Bernice Barkan present revival of Arnaud d'Usseau - James Gow drama, directed by Bert Conway with Loretta Leversee, Kames Karen.

Don Juan in Hell - Jan Hus 10/3. William Gyimes presents revival of Shaw work, directed by Hugh Whitfield with James Forster. Limited two week run.

A Taste of Honey- Lyceum 10/4. David Merrick presents new British play by Shelagh Delaney directed by George Devine-Tony Richardson with Joan Plowright, Angela Lansbury, Andrew Ray.

Becket- St James 10/5. David Merrick presents new French play by Jean Anouilh translated by Lucienne Hill, directed by Peter Glenville with Laurence Olivier, Anthony Quinn, Marie Powers.

Valmouth- York 10/6. Gene Andrewski presents new musical by Sandy Wilson based on novel by Ronald Firbank, directed by Vida Hope with Constance Carpenter, Bertice Reading, Gail Jones.

An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May- Golden 10/8. Alexander Cohen's "Nine O Clock Theatre" presents two man revue, staged by Arthur Penn.

Special Events

Onoe Baiko VII, Kabuki actor who portrays feminine roles in Tokyo Kabuki, will give demonstration performance Oct 9 at Barbizon Plaza Theatre. He is currently directing NY actors in workshop production of Kabuki at Institute of Advanced Studies of Theatre Arts. ... Brendan Behan will open 23rd season of NY YMHA Poetry Center Oct 17 with a reading and commentary.

Drama Desk

Alan Pryce-Jones, British author who subbed for Kenneth Tynan, London Observer, while latter filed NY reviews for "New Yorker", will cover Broadway and Off Broadway this season for "Theatre Arts."

Theatre TV Notes

American Academy of Dramatic Arts Sat. forums with theatre leaders telecast on WNTA (NY) ... Claude Rains to portray leading role in Oct 24 NBC Shangri-La ... NBC to present "Eugene O'Neill: Life and Work of an American Genius" later this season.

Off Broadway

Faust will be presented in German by Hamburg's Deutsches Schauspielhaus Feb 7-19 at City Center, Gustaf Gruendgens director. Simultaneous translations will be provided by transistor sets. City Center will also present three week winter program of Gilbert & Sullivan by the American Savoyards, Dorothy Raedler director.

Darwin's Theories revue moved opening date to Oct 18. ... Ideal by Ayn Rand to be presented Nov 28 by Dan Stamper, Steffen Zacharias director. ... The Sudden End of Anne Cinqfoil by Richard Hepburn, brother of Katharine Hepburn, to be presented in Oct by Richard Barr, Word Baker director.

Kathleen Murray and Caroline Worth have featured roles in Kittiwake Island. ... Andy Thomas replaced Angelo Mango, Leave it to Jane ... Pauline Flanagan joins Drums Under the Windows. ... Juliet Randall, The Idiot, to join She Stoops to Conquer.

Theatre Film Notes

"Blue Denim Baby" is new name of film version of Blue Denim. ... "West Side Story" title song by Leonard Bernstein to be added to film. ... Rhinoceros has drawn film bids from German and Italian producers.

Theatre Record Notes

I'm With You original cast album with Nat King Cole to be made by Capitol Records, a major investor in musical. ... The Golden Apple original cast album of 1954 Phoenix musical, originally made by RCA Victor, has been leased to Elektra Records who will re-issue it.

Theatre Ad Notes

NY Times ad supplement in Mar for Camelot drew \$400,000 worth of ticket sales.

Legal Dept

Stanley Holloway unable to win Herman Levin's permission to use the two songs he originated in My Fair Lady has dropped them from the tryout performances of his Laughs and Other Events in Canada.

((Late News & Reviews--Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

The Idiot- Gate 9/25. 5 pro- Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- filed on first production of Gate Repertory Company directed by Boris Tumarin. Tumarin and Jack Sydow did adaptation of the Dostoevski novel and resident company includes Archie Smith, John Heldabrand, Juliet Randall, Kathleen Widdoes, Charles Caron. Next play to be presented will be *Man and Superman* starting Oct 30. Unanimous approval of production, cast, project ranged from a rave notice from Crist, Herald Tribune, to limited approval of first selection, all applauded major cast members and specially Archie Smith in title role. Herald Tribune arts editor cheered near perfect production, playwriting and performance, bringing the heart and very Russian soul to the stage. Taubman, Times, felt cast does not fully convey all the torment and passion of the novel, though they capture more than he expected. Watts, Post, approved creditable and faithful adaptation vastly aided by young and unsung Smith who portrays role perfectly and plays with understanding, sympathy and perceptive insight. McClain, Journal American, suggested that the stark and moving story, told well and very capably acted, might not be everybody's jigger of vodka, but is a tasteful and intelligent production of drama in the old Russian tradition. Aston, WTS, applauded cast and director for making strong stuff and excellent theatre. News and Mirror reviews not yet filed.

Farewell, Farewell, Eugene- Hayes 9/27-10/1. 1 pro- Journal American- and 6 con- filed on new British comedy by John Vari-Rodney Ackland, staged by Roger Winston, produced by Ronald Rawson with Margaret Rutherford, Mildred Dunnock, Leueen MacGrath, Herbert Volland. British hit which ran for 8 months with Rutherford last season closed after 7 performances. Negative voters split on their allegiance to Rutherford, some cheering her for good try, others feeling she was mis-directed. All agreed play was badly constructed and unfunny. Sole pro voter McClain, Journal American, admitted play was a hunk of nothing, but cast of comedy stars was worth anybody's attention with Rutherford picked as the greatest and most effective female ham actress of our time. But Taubman, Times, was not as impressed with Rutherford who seemed to be going through her assortment of comic routines in the aimless charade. Kerr, Herald Tribune, a confessed Rutherford lover, feared script was one of those in which neither "Eugene" nor comedy ever appeared. Chapman, News, panned it as an aimable and almost utterly worthless play, though Rutherford couldn't be funnier. Coleman, Mirror, reported ovations for star at opening night, but doubted if the director gave her an opportunity to display her true skill. Watts, Post, questioned if even Rutherford thinks the clean, wholesale play was anything but incredibly dull.

Post drama reviewer predicts that after a few more plays as terrible even the most tender-minded are going to cry out for more rape, incest, perversion and four letter words in their drama. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, panned director for making the lamentable error of a play worse by allowing his star to pull it down to ridiculous burlesque.

((LATE REVIEWS ON SUPPLEMENT))

Greenwich Village, USA- 1 SheridanSq- 9/28. 4 pro- Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 1 con- Times- filed on new revue with music by Jeanne Barge, sketches by Frank Gehrecke, presented by Allen Hodshire, directed by Burke McHugh with Pat Finley, Jane A Johnston, Dawn Hampton, Jack Betts, Ken Urmston. All liked players, but comments split on material, both musical and sketch. Crist, Herald Tribune, credited Finley, Johnston and Judy Guyll for helping make show each time they appear one of the sprightlier and gayer revues to have come her way in a fast and friendly show. Herridge, Post, rated it a fine, light enjoyable show, one of the brightest revues to hit the Village or any other part of town for some time, all jelling happily into a consistent evening of fun. O'Connor, Journal American, thought music unusually melodious, though the five piece jazz band headed by Bill Costa he thought raggy. Show lacked polish but in the main was keenly satirical and gaily musical, Journal American man concluded, Saffron, WTS, thought that despite occasional lapses into sentimentality and some haphazard routing the revelry reaches pretty far uptown. Sketch kidding nuclear safety was tabbed in bad taste by WTS aisle-sitter. Sole dissenter, Funke, Times, agreed on talents of cast members, pleasant and able, but feared show failed for lack of clever blackouts, side-splitting sketches and bouncing dances. Too much plain and flat, with another case of the players being better than their material. No News, Mirror reviews filed yet.

A Delightful Season- Gramercy Arts- 9/28. 5 con- Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new musical version by Don Allan Clayton of Wilde's "Lady Windemere's Fan," presented by New Enterprises, directed by Bill Butler with Joan Copeland, Karen Thorsell, Charles Frasch, Donald Symington. Notices were on the mild side blaming composer-adaptor for not fitting either words or music to the original; cast was generally praised for a better than average try. Taubman, Times, felt it lacked subtle musical handling required, the tunes had little variety, and his lines though neat have little kinship with Wilde. Kerr, Herald Tribune, noted author killed everything and deleted almost everything from the original; many cast members forgot their lines he reported. Coleman, Mirror, was disappointed at musical that had serviceable lyrics and a pleasantly reminiscent score, but didn't make up for the huge cuts in the original material. Watts, Post, found it a bit trying in its amiable current incarnation, nothing terribly wrong with it, the only trouble is that most of it seems a trifle dull. McClain, Journal American, is sorry that he wasn't delighted enough, though some of the music was quite haunting and original. Aston, WTS, panned all cast members except Copeland and Edward Zimmerman for being on a senior high school play par. Critic thought it might improve with more rehearsal.

Christopher's Wonders-Maidman 9/26. 3 pro- Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 2 con- Times, Herald Tribune- filed on "illusion" magic show by Milbourne Christopher and his company presented for a limited two week run by Branz Bryan, Jr. Entertainment was recommended by three of the reviewers, including the two negative voters, for children and teen-agers. Several noted that opening was marred by many miscues, forgotten lines and offstage noises. Herridge, Post enjoyed slick magician and his attractive show, especially the audience participation segments. McClain, Journal American, recommended magician in classic style. Aston, WTS, lauded his distaining vocal corn often associated his ilk. Dissenter Gelb, Times, okayed it for children under 15, warning that the adults who go minus children may find it not terribly stimulating. Crist, Herald Tribune, limited her approval to unsophisticated children under 12, if there are any left. She also felt the Maidman all wrong for this type of show.



OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community---- Summer

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College Theatre

She Stoops to Conquer presented each Fri evening by William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Va. Drama Dept, Howard Scammon director at Williamsburg Inn.

Indiana University, Evansville, Ind, concluded first summer season of showboat activities on Ohio River presenting 68 performances of Taming of the Shrew and two 19th century melodramas.

Stuart Vaughan, Phoenix Theatre director, giving "Styles of Directing" graduate course at Brooklyn College.

12th Annual Shakespeare Festival of Hofstra College, Hempstead, NY, will present Love's Labours Lost Mar 10-19 plus two short Elizabethan plays and a musicale of Elizabethan music.

Community Theatres

Rochester, NY, Community Playhouse opens 37th season Nov 4 with Auntie Mame. Schedule for season includes -- Spider's Web, Come Back Little Sheba, Devil's Disciple and Marriage Go Round.

Winter Repertory

Actor's Workshop, San Francisco, resident company hired under Ford Foundation grant includes NY actors-- Philip Bourneuf, Lawrence Hugo, William Major, Albert Paulsen, Frances Reid, Hope Sansberry and West Coast actors--James Gavin, Michael O'Sullivan, Tom Rosqui, Robert Symonds. Season opens in Nov with The Rocks Cried Out a new play by Miriam Stowall.

Charles Playhouse, Boston, opens season Oct 5 with A Streetcar Named Desire, staged by Michael Murray ... Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ, opens fall season Oct 4 with The Marriage Go Round directed by Warren Enters with Constance Bennett, Edward Mulhare, Salome Jens. ... Gallery Theatre, Hollywood, opens season Oct 10 with Katari featuring Jan Merlin, Edward Ludlum director. ... Roslyn, NY Theatre opens first winter season Nov 30 with Two for the Seesaw directed by Louis Macmillan. ... Fred Miller Theatre, Milwaukee opens season Oct 10 with Two for the Seesaw with Pat Carroll and managing director Ray Boyle. Theatre will present in Jan an original musical Adam the Creator by Boyle with music by Sam Lawent.

London

Toys in the Attic cast features Wendy Hiller, Carol Browne, Diana Wynward, Ian Bannion, William Marshall... Rex Harrison to star at Royal Court in six week run starting in mid-Oct in Don Juan in Russian Manner, Basil Ashmore's adaptation of Chekhov's "Platnov". ... Settled Out of Court new melodrama by William Saroyan and Henry Cecil to open Oct 19 at Strand directed by and starring Nigel Patrick... Billy Liar new play by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hill based on latter's novel panned by critics after move from Cambridge to West End.

Paris

A Raisin in the Sun adaptation is the first American hit of the season ... L'Idiot by Marcel Achard opened this week at Theatre Antoine, while author's Patate starts its fifth season.

Road Tours

J. B. national tour via bus and truck of 50 one night stands opens Oct 19 in Wilmington, Del with John Carradine, Shepperd Strudwick, Frederick Worlock ... Duel of Angels tour ends Oct 15 after Washington DC two week run.

American Shakespeare Festival Co production of A Midsummer Night's Dream opened national tour at redecorated Colonial Theatre, Boston. New wall and ceiling paintings in playhouse are by Horace Armistead, new seats and chandeliers and air-conditioning have been installed.

Shakespeare

Stratford, Ont, Shakespeare Festival company next summer to include -- Paul Scofield, Kate Reid, Douglas Rain, Bruno Gerussi, Jack Creley, Leo Cicero, John Colicos. Season to open June 19 and will present Love's Labours Lost, Henry VIII and The Canvas Barricade, a new play by Donald Jack.

Calendar- Tryouts

Camelot-O'Keefe, Toronto 10/1
Face of a Hero-Wilburn, Boston 10/3
49th Cousin- Playhouse, Wilmington 10/5
Invitation to a March- Cass, Detroit 9/26
Laurette- Forrest, Philadelphia 10/3
Tenderloin-Shubert, Boston 9/26
Unsinkable Molly Brown-Shubert, Philadelphia 9/26

Calendar- Current Tours

Destry Rides again- Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles 9/26
Five Finger Exercise-Walnut Philadelphia 10/3
Majority of One- Erlanger, Chicago 9/26
Music Man-KRT, Des Moines 10/3
My Fair Lady- Her Majesty's Montreal 9/26
Raisin in the Sun- Ford's Baltimore 10/3
World of Suzie Wong- Hartman Columbus 10/3

Future Tour Plans

Period of Adjustment- Wilmington Oct 12, Philadelphia Oct 17, New Haven Oct 31... Advise & Consent- New Haven Oct 10, Washington Oct 18, Philadelphia Nov 1... Little Moon of Alban- Philadelphia Oct 27, Washington Nov 14... Critic's Choice- Wilmington Nov 9, Boston Nov 14, Philadelphia Nov 28... Wildcat-Philadelphia Oct 29





INTER- VIEW HI-LITES

MATT CONLEY, producer of Gate Repertory Company, intends to prove to young playwrights that a four week run at capacity audiences at his Off Broadway theatre can yield as much in royalties as eight or more weeks of partially filled houses, he told Crist, Herald Tribune. The resident company provides 35 weeks of continuous employment with an opportunity to appear in a variety of roles in the course of a single season.

GAIL JONES, daughter of Lena Horne making her debut in Valmouth, was provided with sound theatre advice by her mother, she told Viner, World Telegram & Sun. Save your sense of humor, observe the stars, you do not have to like everyone you work with, beware of love affairs in the show.

ELMER BERNSTEIN, composer of incidental score for Laurette, admits his current job is very difficult, he told Catta, Times. The big job is to create the correct thematic sound, but a play is much more fluid operation than films, involving different elements of development. Score for the play is an attempt to integrate music as part of the emotional development of the play.

CAROL TAYLOR, currently subbing for Carol Lawrence, West Side Story, won her role after brief appearances in the chorus of Saratoga and in the Dallas Music Fair production of West Side Story, she told reporter Carol Taylor, World Telegram & Sun. 22 year old actress started out to train as a nurse in Rochester, NY, and switched careers after winning a talent contest.

PAUL SHYRE, director-producer of Drums Under the Windows, believes that one of the reasons Sean O'Casey plays are done so seldom in US is that the author would rather do without American production than have his plays altered in any way, he told Gelb, Times. Another reason is the difficulty of finding actors to speak O'Casey's poetic prose.



NYC CRITICS ABROAD

Brecht's Arthur Ui presented at East Berlin's Berliner Ensemble Theatre is a sardonic, brash, vulgar, noisy, witty, violent and cynical play showing how an American gangster could follow in the footsteps of Hitler, reports Crosby, Herald Tribune. Marvelous actors have black eyepits, chalk-white skins, repellantly red mouths, the stage revolves in front of your eyes. But idea, TV critic concludes, does not wear well, Brecht's gangster is only an embodiment of a particularly contemptuous idea. There is great emotion, but no real thought. Audience at the German theatre applauded noisily, but did not talk when they left the theatre.



LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Expanded use of the new \$250,000 Central Park amphitheatre to be made next season by the NY Shakespeare Festival and the NY CityCenter. Free Monday evening musicales will be presented during the summer, and a paid series of programs of opera, ballet, symphony and jazz programs would be presented in Sept, following the free summer performances of Shakespeare. NY Park Commissioner Newbold Morris also plans to announce shortly a \$1,500,000 contribution to improve lighting in the amphitheatre area. NY Shakespeare Festival is also planning an Oct to May tour of city public schools of its Shakespeare productions. Benay Venuta to star in Off Broadway revival of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn Nov 28 at Barbizon Plaza... Carnival, musical version of film "Lili", to hunt for title player in London and Paris. Gower Champion to direct musical due in Feb... Mad Avenue musical planned for last season will be presented in Feb by Lorin E Price, starring Frankie Laine. Book is by Howard Henkin, music by Len Mackenzie-Bobby Haggard, lyrics by Henkin-Mackenzie... The Little Locksmith, new drama by Whitfield Cook to be presented this season by Harriet Parsons-Charles Hollorh, Jr... "Spice Wood Enterprises", co-producers of The Rape of the Belt and The Mousetrap are San Antonio, Texas play investors Mrs Carolyn Neglery and Mrs Jean Kuntz, reports Zolotow, Times.

Irma La Douce-Plymouth 9/29. 6 pros- and 1 con-Herald Tribune- filed on English production and adaptation of French musical presented by David Merrick, English book and lyrics by Julian More, adapted from French by Alexandre Breffort, music by Marguerite Monnot, staged by Peter Brook with Elizabeth Seal, Clive Revill, Keith Mitchell of the English cast. Unanimous cheers for Seal and most of supporting cast, as well as for the music. Kerr, Herald Tribune, filed his con notice on book and editing, not cast or music. All other notices were raves. Heading the pro bandwagon, Taubman, Times, applauded unusual musical giving the lion's share of the credit to director whose staging is as heady as a fine dry French wine. Chapman, News, rated Seal as darling and rest charming in captivating new musical staged with extraordinary assurance and humor. News aisle-sitter also praised Rolf Gerard's sets and costumes as a show by themselves. Coleman, Mirror, loved the zany carnival of song and dance, paced at a whirlwind, an eyebrow raiser, drenched in sex, not for the fastidious or the prudish. Watts, Post, tabbed show a pleasure and Seal an utter delight, a joy and a treasure who mustn't be allowed to leave US. It takes the materials of cynicism, sentimentality, mockery, and sexual preoccupation and weaves them into an integrated whole that possesses strikingly imaginative style and originality, Post man sums. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, raved for Seal who is better than her show, although it is a fair shakes of entertainment. McClain, Journal American, shared plaudits with entire superb cast, picking Revill as a standout, a large hunk of talent. Several noted that Seal's rendition of "Dis-Donc" stopped the show. Sole dissenter, Kerr, Herald Tribune, would have liked it if it weren't so infernally cute. Seal and the music he thought were close to adorable, but authors were never willing to let a conceit alone. Show has no staying power, no hearty filling inside the showy meringue, and gradually transforms itself into a poor man's "Begger's Opera." Kerr concludes.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

LEGIT TAX WOES... Abolishing the 10% Federal tax on theatre tickets, as proposed by Rep John Lindsay (R-NY) who will re-introduce his bill if re-elected, would cost the US government \$3 million a year, estimates Atkinson, Times. Even if the producers are allowed to keep the tax money, as in the instance of non-profit theatres, there is no guarantee that the NY City government will not raise its 5% tax. When the federal government cut the ticket tax from 20% to 10% seven years ago, Atkinson recalls, the City snatched half of the rebate with startling alacrity.

COLUMN TIPS... Greer Garson and Rex Harrison have been asked to co-star in Tovarich musical, notes Graham, Mirror... Camelot tryout in Toronto to four hours to allow director Moss Hart to cut after seeing entire production staged, reports Lyons, Post... Theodore Bikel was refused permission of Sound of Music management to leave to appear in "Hatari" film, hears Parsons, Journal American.

'SCANDAL' POLL... A Country Scandal director and adaptor differ on the use of audience reaction poll reports Funke, Times. Though earlier story stated director Amnon Kabatchnik changed the ending of the Chekhov adaptation as a result of pre-opening audience views, director now claims survey only changed his outlook at the play, not the text. Adaptor Alex Szogyi insists that he did not change any text and that he also doubts the value of such questionnaires to a playwright.... Times reader warns that if Chekhov were around the editorial researcher may suddenly have discovered a new technique of murder--his own.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... My Fair Laddie suggested as an alternate title for Laughs and Other Events if Herman Levin continues to refuse permission to Stanley Holloway to sing his songs from "My Fair Lady" urges Wahls, News... Continued co-operation between the best of the Off Broadway theatre and WNTA-NY Play of the Way is a development not to be minimized, states Gould, Times.... Kerr, Herald Tribune, is stumped to honestly see how tryout productions in Philadelphia can blame their troubles on anything but the water. Town's City Hall earlier had requested The Best Man drop joke about their poor water.

SECOND GUESSES... Here Come the Clowns is an enigmatic effort, but it has purpose and thought and the kind of good talk that Philip Barry commanded, comments McClain, Journal American... Off Broadway has done us a favor in letting us see the sensible moral parable Sign of Jonah, rates Watts, Post... World of Carl Sandburg is a grab-bag of free verse and poetic prose, sums Chapman, News. Bette Davis is not his favorite reciter, somewhat lacking vocal-color and warmth, but she is a stage personality and you know what she is saying.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "The Magic Mirror", selected writings of George Jean Nathan edited by Thomas Quinn Curtis (Knopf \$5) recommended by three reviewers. Sobol, Journal American, marked it for the ardent admirers of Nathan and firm adherents of his critical and often dyspeptic appraisals. Watts, Post, approved of it particularly for younger followers of theatre who having read Nathan only in his later days may have wondered why his elders held him in such high esteem. Pryce-Jones, Herald Tribune, applauded volume of Nathan at his liveliest, and a memorial that re-asserts the value of catholicity in theatre criticism.

The Idiot is a brilliant Off Broadway production in all its aspects, plus an exciting beginning for the ambitious plans of the Gate Repertory Company. The skillful adaptation and direction of the immense, always fascinating tale, is professional playwriting at its best. The bold scope of the novel translated by the fine cast presents many memorable portraits, outstanding of which is by Archie Smith in the title role. In complete control of the character and the material every moment he emerges as one of the finest young actors presented in years, on or Off Broadway. Others do exceptionally well in difficult roles, though none comes close to Smith's class.

Greenwich Village, USA is a tune-filled revue with a talented cast of singers and dancers, an army of pretty songs, but not a funny idea and/or sketch in the package. The slick staging and professional air of the entire production almost cover up the often tasteless blackouts and the one or two downright dirty and unfunny ditties. If the sketch material were merely dropped, a few more tunes added to composer Jeane Barge's score, the evening would be a complete success. Only a scoundrel these days would demand Off Broadway a good cast, good songs and good material. Any wise theatre buff will gladly settle for any two out of three.

When is the original cast album of the topical parodies of The Hostage going to be recorded?

The realistic thought that NY City might grab back a possible federal theatre tax reduction is the kind of theatre problem that the average voter can and should influence. Both congressional candidates for the area covering most of the Off Broadway and all of the Broadway theatres are on the record for a 10% cut in the federal tax, without specifying what would happen to the refund. The hint is that if no one objects too loudly the producers will pocket the rebate, that no price reduction will take place, and the public will not even get a thank you for their vote efforts. Public opinion can hardly be in favor of an increase in ticket prices. The candidates could get certain support and votes if they made sure that any possible cut in the federal tax would go back to theatre ticket buyers enabling them to see more shows.

Cabaret Off Broadway Theatre with professional shows, plus food and drink (liquor and/or coffee) promises to change the Off Broadway picture this season. With producer-owners running both the theatre and restaurant operations and using the theatres for both theatres and night club operation in the same evening, the chances for profit to investors is put on a more business-like basis. When all starved together--producer, actor, author, staff, etc--the "showcase" rules of Equity almost made sense. But when Off Broadway moves to combine theatre and stomach it is time for a new look at the provisions. It is long past the time that a living wage was available to the Off Broadway actor. Everyone else involved in the operation has a fair chance of making a living, and often a profit, except the person who provides the basic entertainment.

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"- Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap \$80--\$80 \$76 \$75 -means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro-3 raves 95% B- Cap \$40--\$36 \$39 \$35 \$36 \$39
BYE BYE BIRDIE Beck \$8.60 4/14/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$57 \$58 \$58 \$59
FIORIELLO Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 43 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$56 \$58 \$59
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 80% B- Cap \$64--\$51 \$51 \$44 \$45 \$50
HOSTAGE Cort \$7.50 9/20/60	138 W 48 CI 5-428	60% C- 4 Pro- Trib, Post, Mir, WTS Cap \$40-- \$24
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth \$8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	See Digest- Supplement
LA PLUME Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves-Times milder 75% B- Cap \$45-- \$35 \$36 \$32 \$34 \$38
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C-5 raves-Times, WTS milder 95% B- Cap \$36--\$32 \$35 \$33 \$36 \$36
MUSIC MAN Majestic \$8.05 12/19/57	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6 raves- H.Trib milder 65% B- Cap \$70--\$43 \$40 \$36 \$43 \$45
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves play-News OK P Charls 70% B- Cap \$70--\$52 \$54 \$50 \$55 \$59

SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 44 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$75-- \$76 \$76 \$76 \$76 \$76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert \$9/40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir 2 raves-News, WTS 85% B- Cap \$64--\$53 \$51 \$41 \$46 \$54
TENTH MAN Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves-Times, News 60% B- Cap \$32--\$19 \$26 \$23 \$23 \$26
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder 50% B- Cap \$49--\$24 \$29 \$26
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 50% B- Cap \$40--\$21 \$27 \$23 \$21 \$24
WEST SIDE STORY W Garden \$8.05 4/27/60	1674 Bway CI 5-4878	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 55% B- Cap \$64--\$35 \$42 \$44 \$46 \$45 \$44
WORLD CARL SANDBURG Miller \$7.50 9/14/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	60% C- 4 pro-Times, Trib, Post, J Am 50% B- Cap \$33--\$14 \$15

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Sept 28- CBS- Men in White on Show of Month with Lee J Cobb
 Oct 22- CBS- Tje Disenchanted on Show of Month
 Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
 Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
 Jan 8- CBS- "The Ger shwin Years"
 Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of Fame

"CD" Pros & Cons

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Gypsy, Hostage, La Plume, Miracle Worker
 Music Man, My Fair Lady, Take Me Along, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic
 West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Fantasticks, Greenwich Village USA, HMS Pinafore
 The Idiot, Krapps Last Tape, Leave It to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine,
 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man, World of Carl Sandburg

Here Come Clowns, La Ronde, Sign of Jonah

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 CH 3-6800	6 Pro- No Mirror Sat to Thur- No Fris
CHRISTOPHERS WONDERS Maidman \$4.90 9/26	416 W 42 BR 9-2084	3 Pro- Post, J Am, WTS 2 Con- Times, H Trib
DANCE OF DEATH Key \$3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 3-8796	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DELIGHTFUL SEASON Gram Arts \$4.90 9/28/60	128 E 27 MU 6-9630	See Digests Page 2
GREENWICH VILLAGE, USA 1 Sher Sq \$4.50 9/28/60	1 Sher Sq UN 9-1334	See Digests Page 2
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib--No Mirror
HERE COME CLOWNS Actors Play \$4.60 9/19/60	100-7th Av S OR 3-1036	4 Pro- Times, News, Post, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, Mir, WTS
HMS PINAFORE Phoenix \$4.60 9/7/60	189-2nd Av OR 4-7160	7 Pros- To Oct 23
THE IDIOT Gate \$3.90 9/25/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-8796	5 Pro- No News, Mirror to Oct 23
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.50 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 CH 2-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All mild (No Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5 5/2/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
SIGN OF JONAH Players \$3.90 9/8/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post WTS 2 Con- News, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	121 Cris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 Con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Deep Are the Roots-St Marks -10/3	Tree Grows Bklyn-Bar Plaza 11/28
A Taste of Honey-Lyceum- 10/4	Ideal- (Off)- 11/28
Becket- St James 10/5	All the Way Home-Belasco 11/30
Valmouth- York 10/6	Love & Libel- 11/30
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8	After I'm Gone-Atkinson 11/7
Laughs & Other Events-Barrym 10/10	Hedda Gabler-4th St 11/7
The Wall- Rose- 10/11	Donogoo- G Mews 11/7
Kittiwake Island-Martique 10/12	3 Short Plays-Village Gate 11/7
Drums Under the Window-C Lane 10/13	
Shoemaker & Peddler-East 74- 10/14	Little Moon Alban-Longacre 12/1
Sheperd on the Shelf- Blackfriars 10/14	Critic's Choice-Barrym 12/14
Tenderloin- 46th St- 10/17	Wildcat- Alvin 12/15
Darwin's Theories- Mad Av 10/18	Do Re Mi-St James 12/26
Face of a Hero- O'Neill 10/22	The Tiger Rag-T Marq 12/7
49th Cousin- Ambassador 10/25	
Invitation to a March-M Box 10/26	The Hero- ANTA 1/5
Laurette- Beck- 10/27	Rhinoceros- 1/5
Behind the Wall- Jan Hus 10/31	Showgirl- 1/14
Provincetown Show- Provinc 10/7	Love & Death- 1/15

She Stoops to Conquer-Phoenix 11/1	I'm With You- 2/1
Rape of the Belt- ANTA 11/2	Faust- C Center 2/7
Kukla, Burr & Ollie-Astor Hotel 11/2	3 Daughters- 2/9
Unsinkable M Brown-W Garden 11/3	Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21
The Mousetrap- Maidman- 11/5	The Caretaker-Miller 2/7
Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10	Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/7
Open Up Your Heart- 11/10	
Under Yum Yum Tree- Miller 11/16	
Advise & Consent- Corti- 11/17	
Camelot- Majestic- 11/19	
Taffy- 11/23	



This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE now in its 11th year to theatre teachers, students, professionals-college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc--published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone, \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956-\$25 each. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

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